

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – SERMON 9

TWO DREAMS, TWO DESTINIES

Genesis 40

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout history, despots have had their rivals or threats to power (whether real or imagined) dispatched in violent ways.
- The Pharaohs took very seriously any potential threat to their power or their lives, and punished any who they suspected of doing them harm.
- All this should put us in mind of the fact that all the Lord Jesus Christ will one day purge all rebellious unbelievers from His kingdom – not as the rulers of this world do, according to their lusts and desire for power, and often unjustly – but He will judge righteously and justly, according to His word.
- Even the most vehement and violent punishment devised by man cannot compare with the intolerable torments of the infernal flames that will eternally torture those who reject Christ.
- We can find illustrations of gospel truths in the characters and incidents recorded throughout the Old Testament.
- Some are clear and obvious, while others are more obscure.
- Pharaoh's butler and baker present us with a clear illustration of state and final end of the saved and the lost.

I. THE RESEMBLANCE OF THE PRISONERS (1-4)

A. They both claimed to serve the king

1. They were both “officers”, “chief” of their departments (v.2) and “servants” (v.20)
2. Yet one of them was hanged as a traitor
3. There are many in this world who profess, and appear, to serve Christ (Matthew 7:22)
4. Like wheat and tares, there can be little outward distinction between the children of the kingdom and the children of the wicked one (Matthew 13:24-30;37-43)
5. The devil and his agents are masters of counterfeit (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
6. “The devil can counterfeit all the saving operations and graces of the Spirit of God.” — Jonathan Edwards
7. The true, justified servant of Christ must not only have an outward righteousness, but a righteousness of the heart, imputed by faith in Christ (Matthew 5:20)

B. They both offended their lord the king

1. Note the word for offended can be translated “sinned”
2. Sin is the transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4)
3. All mankind is under the condemnation of sin (cf. Luke 23:40-41; John 3:18)
4. Man is a sinner by nature (Romans 5:12)
5. Man is a sinner in conduct (Romans 3:19,23; Galatians 3:22)

C. They were both under the king’s wrath

1. God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11)

2. God's wrath abides on unbelievers (John 3:36)

D. They were both imprisoned

1. Unregenerate man is in bondage to sin (John 8:34)

II. THE RELEASE TO THE PALACE (9-13)

A. Christ is the vine (John 15:1)

1. Buds indicate a *living* vine (John 11:25; 14:6)

2. Blossoms represent God's choice (Numbers 17:5; Matthew 21:42)

3. Grapes speak of fruitfulness (Acts 2:22; 10:38)

4. The pressed grapes show the bruising of the Lord (Isaiah 53:5,10)

5. The cup is Christ's shed blood (Matthew 26:27-28)

6. The three days show Christ's resurrection (Romans 5:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

B. The butler was accepted by the king

1. He came into the king's presence with the blood (Hebrews 10:19)

2. The king "lifted up his head" (Psalm 3:3)

3. He is brought to the palace to serve the king (Revelation 22:3)

III. THE REJECTION TO PERDITION (16-19)

A. Bakemeats represent the works of man

1. Like Cain's offering, it relies on human effort, not faith (Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12)
2. This was a bloodless sacrifice (Hebrews 9:12,22)
3. Salvation is by grace, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Galatians 2:16)

B. The baker was cursed

1. To be hanged on a tree is to be cursed (Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:13)
2. All those who trust in man, and make flesh his arm, are cursed (Jeremiah 17:5)
3. The devouring birds speak of the final judgment (Revelation 19:21)

CONCLUSION

1. On the king's birthday, the judgment was made (v.40)
2. God has appointed a day on which Christ will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31; Ecclesiastes 12:14)
3. There are only two paths in life, and two eternal destinies (Matthew 7:13-14; John 3:36)
4. Which of these two men represent you?
5. What are you trusting in for your eternal life?